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Angleton: Will Hollywood Make Hero of Traitor?

New Hollywood Movie About CIA Intriguer James Angleton

By Michael Collins Piper

Three of Hollywood's biggest stars are slated for a new film just beginning production: a thinly-veiled biography of one of the CIA's most controversial figures, the spy agency's longtime counterintelligence chief, James Angleton, who died in 1987.

The film is entitled ***The Good Shepherd***, but even a cursory review of Angleton's life and crimes suggests such a title could hardly be applied to Angleton whose misdeeds lie at the bottom of some of the most infamous events in American history.

That why it's appropriate to put out the facts about Angleton so that Hollywood ensures the truth is told, rather than a falsified "legend" of the type Angleton so often created while operating behind the scenes in all manner of global trickery.

Since Matt Damon and Angelina Jolie — two younger members of the Hollywood elite — will play Angleton and his wife, this suggests Angleton will be portrayed as a glamorous James Bond-type hero. Popular actor Robert DeNiro reportedly will briefly portray Angleton in later life, when, in fact, Angleton was a delusional, paranoid alcoholic who feared the dark secrets surrounding his own machinations would be unveiled, as, in many cases, they were.

That Miss Jolie is in this film about Angleton — who was the CIA's fanatically pro-Israel liaison to Israel's intelligence agency, Mossad — is ironic: Miss Jolie's great-uncle, the late Joseph P. Kamp, was an outspoken critic of the pro-Israel policies promoted by Angleton. Miss Jolie is the daughter of actor Jon Voight, Kamp's nephew.

Some may recall Kamp as a correspondent for the former ***Spotlight*** newspaper, following a stellar career in journalism going back to the 1920s. Kamp produced dozens of reports, many of them relating to the activities of the Israeli lobby in America, of which Angleton was a trusted ally. In fact, Angleton was so valued by Israel that, upon his death, the Israelis constructed a monument in Israel in his memory.

Even more ironic — considering the Jolie-Kamp-***Spotlight*** link — is that Angleton was the very CIA figure who generated a disinformation campaign, through one of his media "cutouts" — a slippery character named Robert Corson — that led to ***The Spotlight*** being sued by ex-CIA officer E. Howard Hunt.

Angleton — at the time retired, but still scheming — used Corson to circulate a story suggesting Hunt had been in Dallas the day of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Corson leaked the story to several journalists, including former CIA official-turned-CIA critic Victor Marchetti.

In writing an account of the tale for ***The Spotlight***, Marchetti concluded that Angleton's story was a ruse to confuse legitimate inquiries into the assassination, a "limited hangout," designed to make Hunt appear a "rogue" agent and thereby absolve the CIA of any institutional blame in the crime. So even though Angleton was attempting to throw Hunt to the wolves, Hunt instead turned around and sued ***The Spotlight***.

Had it not been for the skillful defense of the newspaper by famed attorney and JFK assassination investigator Mark Lane — who convinced a jury the CIA had been involved in the president's murder — ***The Spotlight*** would have perished in 1984.

That Angleton promoted JFK disinformation is interesting since, as Lane penned down in his book ***Plausible Denial***, it is clear Angleton was a key player in the JFK conspiracy. This is no surprise, since Angleton is known to have been involved in illicitly diverting American uranium to Israel to advance Israel's nuclear weapons program, which JFK was so determined to stop.

Thanks to the BBC documentary, ***USS Liberty — Dead in the Water***, it is believed that Angleton was also a key player in the mass murder by Israel of 34 American sailors aboard the USS Liberty.

On June 7, 1967, Israeli forces attacked the USS Liberty in the Mediterranean. The BBC's documentary noted that Angleton conspired with the Israelis to place the Liberty on the scene to enable the attack. Then, Angleton and other traitors attempted to trick President Lyndon Johnson into believing the attack was an act of war against the United States by Egypt.

Initially taken in, Johnson ordered a nuclear strike on Cairo, but canceled it only at the last minute when the facts came to the fore, thus scuttling this evil scheme by Angleton and his Israeli allies.

Incidentally, the Israeli attack on the Liberty was covered up by the American press for nine years until 1976, when it was exposed by ***The Spotlight***.

However, the Angleton story gets murkier. Although ostensibly anti-Soviet, constantly searching for a reputed KGB mole whom he said was operating at the top levels of the CIA — a scenario that created havoc within the CIA for years — details ultimately emerged pointing to the belief now held by many former CIA officials (and which was even the conclusion of an internal CIA inquiry) that the mole hunter — Angleton — was, in fact, the mole.

The record also shows that, back as far as the 1950s, Angleton was the key figure in forging CIA ties to the Meyer Lansky crime syndicate, lending support to the heroin trade and utilizing mob gambling enterprises for money laundering and other covert ventures.

Evidence also points to Angleton's role in instigating the "Watergate" scandal that brought down President Nixon who — like JFK — had begun to move against Angleton's Israeli friends. Then, after Nixon fell, Angleton was thrown out of the CIA by the new CIA director, William Colby, who was fed up with Angleton's pro-Israel intrigues. After he left the CIA, Colby mysteriously died in an "accident."

It is thus no surprise that Angleton's bizarre career has already been memorialized in Aaron Latham's controversial, hard-to-find and oddly-titled novel, ***Orchids for Mother***. Known by his CIA nickname, "Mother," Angleton was an avid cultivator of orchids, flowers known for changing their colors, a point not unnoticed by those who have studied his strange career.

Photographs of James J. Angleton (subcaptioned: "Soviet mole,"), Meyer Lansky ("Crime kingpin"), Richard Nixon ("Fallen leader"), and William Colby (Mysteriously died).

Illustration: *Cover of Final Judgment: The Missing Link in the JFK Assassination Conspiracy*

Caption: **"Cover of Final Judgment: The Missing Link in the JFK Assassination Conspiracy**, By Michael Collins Piper. This titanic classic continues to reverberate. Used copies have sold on the Internet for as much as $185 each. Yes, Israel's Mossad was a key player with the CIA in the JFK affair and this landmark work sets the record straight. This book ties together all the other competing theories in a way that makes sense. More than 1,000 footnotes, Softcover, 768 pages, #1124, $25. No charge for shipping and handling. Order from FIRST AMENDMENT BOOKS, 645 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Suite 100, Washington, D.C. 20003 or call 1-888-699-NEWS (6397) toll free to charge to Visa or MasterCard."

A journalist specializing in media critique, Michael Collins Piper is the author of ***Final Judgment***, the controversial "underground bestseller" documenting the collaboration of Israeli intelligence in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. He is also the author of ***The High Priests of War***, ***The New Jerusalem***, ***The Judas Goats***, and ***Dirty Secrets***, all available from America First Books and First Amendment Books. He has lectured on suppressed topics in places as diverse as Malaysia, Japan, Canada, Russia and Abu Dhabi.

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